



Domestic Violence Awareness Month

As a woman and a U.S. Senator, I have worked throughout my career in public service to help protect those in our society who need a voice. In 1994, I was proud to be an original cosponsor of the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA), which aims to combat violence against women and children throughout Arkansas and our nation. Although the incidence of violent crime against women has decreased in the fifteen years since we passed that law, any case is one too many.

I have visited with victims of abuse and have seen firsthand how devastating domestic violence can be. Earlier this year, I participated in a televised roundtable in Northwest Arkansas alongside domestic violence survivors, experts, and other government officials to discuss the effects of abuse and what we can all do to make a difference in preventing domestic violence. We must continue the conversation on domestic violence's impact on our families, and that is why I am [highlighting October as Domestic Violence Awareness Month](#).

According to data collected by the FBI, Arkansas ranked fourth in the nation in 2007 for the number of females murdered by male perpetrators, and 89 percent of them were murdered by someone they knew.

Those who are the unfortunate victims of domestic violence must also know where to turn. The Arkansas Coalition Against Domestic Violence is a tremendous resource and includes a list of shelters and services. They can be reached at 1-800-269-4668 or online at www.domesticpeace.com. In addition, individuals who find themselves in immediate danger should always call 911 or the U.S. Domestic Violence hotline at 1-800-799-SAFE.

Victims of crime and domestic violence deserve the best services we can provide. I will continue to highlight initiatives like Domestic Violence Awareness Month and support legislation, such as VAWA, that address domestic violence in Arkansas and across the country by extending support to victims, cracking down on abusers, and most importantly, keeping women and children safe.

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